Utilisation of air service agreements by IA and AI

2895. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air service agreements that India have with other countries;

(b) the details of air service agreements utilised by IA and AI;

(c) whether it is a fact that India is allowing some of the private airlines to fly to international destinations; and

(d) if so, the details of private airlines allowed to fly overseas and details of destinations to which they are allowed to fly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, India has Air Services Agreements with 100 foreign countries.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines are utilising traffic rights under Air Services Agreements with UK, USA, France, Germany, Canada, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kenya, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) As part of liberalization policy and to improve the utilisation of traffic rights by the Indian side, Government has decided to permit private scheduled airlines having coutinuous 5 year experience in domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft to operate on international routes except to UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In accordance with this decision, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have been permitted to operate on international routes to operate to UK, USA, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and Belgium.

Setting up a full-fledged Department of Aeronautics

2896. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a full-fledged Department of Aeronautics to be over seen by Aeronautics Commission to evolve policy develop framework for varied aeronautical endeavours and to implement

specific projects in order to promote national aeronautics related efforts in an organized manner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

NCAER report on Air Tariff

2897. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of NCAER; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report *inter alia* has recommended autonomy for national carriers, creation of independent Civil Aviation Authority, increased usage of bilaterals with private sector participation, reduction in ATF prices and airport charges, optimal use of airport infrastructure, subsidising uneconomic routes, encouraging use of small aircraft on uneconomic routes, removal of route dispersal guidelines, creation of a hub in North East to develop operational and maintenance activities, Government's support for adequate insurance coverage, autonomy in airport management, expansion of low cost airlines etc. Many of the recommendations have already been implemented or form part of the draft civil aviation policy.

Making AI offices passenger friendly

2898. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps recently to streamline the working of Air India Offices abroad to make them more passenger friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?